(e) to (g) The Tamil Nadu Government has established the "TICEL Bio-Park" to promote biotechnology research & development and industrial activities at Taramani, Chennai. The Department of Biotechnology has received the proposal from the TICEL Bio-Park for financial and infrastructure support.

Investment in Bio-Tech Sector

3224. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more investors are showing keen interest for investing on bio-pharmaceuticals, bio-informatics and Bio-tech services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of investment expected in the above sectors in the next five years; and

(d) the investment that bio-tech sector got since 1977, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The industry is steadily recognizing the potential of biotechnology applications including biopharmaceuticals, bioinformatics and bioservices, as per the survey conducted by Bio Spectrum in association with Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) in 2005. Several measures have been taken by the government for the promotion of biotech sector. The Government of India has established Technology Development Board (TDB) and Pharmaceuticals Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) under the Department of Science and Technology for providing soft loans to the entrepreneurs. There is a specific expert group in the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for identification and implementation of product and technology oriented research, for promoting investment in the Biotech sector. Several foreign companies have also expressed interest in investing in India either for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) or through joint ventures.

(c) The biotechnology sector is fast growing in the country and as per the Bio Spectrum-ABLE survey for the year 2005 the Biotech Industry which includes Bio Pharma, Bio Services, Bio Agri, Bio Industrial and Bio Informatics has recorded 36.55 percent growth and crossed $1 billion

(Rs. 4745 crore) mark. Investment especially from private sector is expected to increase accordingly.

(d) The investment mainly from the Department of Biotechnology since 1997 for the promotion of biotechnology in the country is given below:

YEAR	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
EXPENDITURE (Rs. In Crores)	85.22	104.46	116.38	140.90	174.94	204.78	248.82

In addition, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Science and Technology and other Ministries are also investing on specific projects and activities and on their autonomous institutions.

Checking the import of G.M. foods

†3225. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that genetically modified food products are being imported unchecked in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an experiment has revealed the cases of diseases related to kidney, liver, change in blood cells and reduction in reproduction capacity in the mice as a result of eating the genetically modified maize;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check the import of genetically modified food products; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) We are not aware of any import of genetically modified food products in India. However, import of genetically

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.